

Appl. No. 10/726,460
Amdt. Dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Claims 1-31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of producing a gas comprising:

forming a single grain assembly from ~~arranging~~ a plurality of individual solid propellant grains, the plurality of individual solid propellant grains arranged so that ~~there are~~ at least two of the individual solid propellant grains are shaped and oriented in such a way that they are symmetrical with respect to each other about a line; and

igniting the symmetrical individual solid propellant grains in the solid propellant grain assembly in such a way that ~~they~~ the individual solid propellant grains are consumed in a manner that is substantially symmetrical with respect to the line.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 32 wherein:

a step of arranging includes the step of arranging a plurality of the individual solid propellant grains are arranged in pairs; and

~~wherein~~ the individual solid propellant grains in each pair are substantially symmetrical with respect to each other.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim 33 wherein the step of igniting includes the step of igniting the individual solid propellant grains in the solid propellant grain assembly only in pairs.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 32 wherein the at least two individual solid propellant grains in the solid propellant grain assembly are ignited simultaneously.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim 35 wherein the step of igniting the

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at least two individual solid propellant grains in the solid propellant grain assembly simultaneously includes the step of igniting the at least two individual solid propellant grains in the solid propellant grain assembly simultaneously at two different points on each grain.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of claim 32 wherein;

~~the step of arranging includes the step of arranging~~ a pair of the plurality of individual solid propellant grains is arranged differently in at least one of size and shape from the at least two individual solid propellant grains[[,]]; and

~~wherein the step of igniting includes the step of igniting~~ the at least two individual solid propellant grains are ignited before ~~igniting~~ the pair of individual solid propellant grains is ignited.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 32 wherein;

~~the step of arranging the at least two individual solid propellant grains includes the step of arranging the at least two grains~~ are arranged so that they extend from respective first end portions to respective second end portions; and

~~wherein the at least two individual solid propellant grains are arranged so as to provide a channel between the first and second end portions of at least one individual solid propellant grain.~~

Claims 39-42 (canceled).